

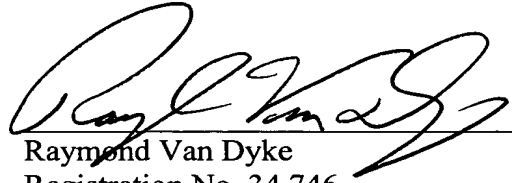
**REMARKS**

The claims have been amended to cancel claims 11, 15, 27-29, rephrase claim 22, make minor corrections to claims 9, 13, 16, 18, 21, 23 and 26, and add new claim 30.

Examination on the merits is requested.

Date: December 24, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Raymond Van Dyke", is written over a horizontal line.

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